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of the institution in the past, and as a present-day problem. Both a problem and a danger, because in the same year in which Pius X. has issued a syllabus to counteract the influence of the German Catholics' League against the Index, the authorities of one of the greatest public libraries in the United States have gone out of their way to prevent the admission of Fogazzaro's *Il Santo*, and to withdraw from circulation vernacular translations of the Bible, certain volumes of Carducci's works, and that dangerous heretical work Dickens's *Child's History of England*.

GEORGE L. HAMILTON.

Queen Hortense and Her Friends, 1783-1837. By I. A. TAYLOR.

In two volumes. (New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. 1907. · Pp. xii, 310; viii, 328.)

APART from the two emperors the members of the Bonaparte family were, at best, uninteresting mediocrities, but three of the Bonaparte wives, the Empresses Josephine and Eugénie and Queen Hortense, have never ceased to be the objects of the greatest interest. The winning personalities with which these three women graced the imperial court contributed in no small measure to the glory and success of the two emperors. The very brilliancy of their success as allied members of the imperial family made them the objects of bitter jealousy within the family and of intense hatred from enemies of the Bonapartes. Devout and enthusiastic admiration has been rendered to them by some writers, while others have reviled them as royalties and defamed them as women. Some women in their positions might have received exact justice from their biographers, but women of their characters and temperaments cannot expect it, for they are destined to be well hated or well loved, and the more exalted their position, the more intense the love or the hatred. To the historian these women are of slight importance for they had little influence in matters of state. They interest, rather, the thoughtless throng which delights in the gossip of high society and the sorrows of the unfortunate, and delights supremely in the stories of court life and the tribulations of unfortunate queens. Even compared with her mother and her daughter-in-law, the importance of Hortense is slight, and interest attaches to her chiefly as a queen to be pitied.

While Miss Taylor has produced an elaborate and conscientious study of the afflicted queen, the historian will find very little in it of service; those that weep over the sorrows of the great will find that the tragic element has not been developed in a racy style; and the seeker after scandal will find that element completely ignored, for the author is loathe to believe Hortense guilty of any lapse from virtue, and even casts serious doubt upon her supposed parentage of the Duc de Morny. There was need of a book in English on Queen Hortense. Miss Taylor has fairly supplied it, and incidentally has furnished the

best complete account of her in any language. In English there has been nothing except Abbott's volume for the youthful reader. In French there exist the worthless eulogy by Fourmestraux published under the Second Empire; the more careful study published a decade ago by Turquan, who fancied he was writing a "true" life because he was retailing all the scandalous gossip; and two of the four promised volumes of Mademoiselle d'Arjuzon's detailed but adulatory account. Miss Taylor, of course, ignores the two first mentioned narratives, cites Turquan only for refutation, and quotes Arjuzon frequently. Masson's elaborate works are often cited, but it must be remembered that the brilliant academician has furnished no satisfactory guarantees for the authenticity of his work. Miss Taylor has read widely among the memoir-writers and depends largely upon Mesdames Campan, Récamier, and Rémusat, and Mademoiselle Cochelet (Madame Parquin). In the absence of all, save a fragment, of the Memoirs of Hortense, which seem destined unfortunately never to be published, information concerning her must be derived chiefly from the memoirs of the court ladies—certainly not unimpeachable authorities. The author would have been wise had she quoted the Duchesse d'Abrantès, Fouché, and Constant less freely and less confidently. Miss Taylor has made no new researches, and supplies no new materials. She might well have inserted an essay upon the authorities or, at least, a complete list of the works cited. There are few criticisms of detail aside from the treatment of foreign proper names, in respect to which there are several infelicities. The use of the future perfect tense for historical narration is a new invention and should be patented without delay. On the other hand, the exclusive right of the Paris edition of the *Herald* to such a phrase as, "the Louis Bonapartes" should be respected.

The author restrains herself alike from adulation and from denunciation of Hortense. Almost invariably she takes the favorable view of her acts and only in rare instances does she criticize her. Eugénie's "douce entêtée" and Napoleon's "soie raisonnable" furnish her the keynote for her judgments upon the charming unfortunate. Whatever one's judgment in regard to specific facts, there is nothing in morals or misfortunes to differentiate Hortense greatly from many French women of her generation. The historian of the Napoleonic era will accord her scant mention.

GEORGE M. DUTCHER.

The Fall of Napoleon. By OSCAR BROWNING, M.A. (London and New York: John Lane Company. 1907. Pp. x, 327.)

THE Napoleonic library that one might create, *i. e.*, of books or pamphlets wholly or partly on the subject of the Great Corsican, now numbers some thirty thousand volumes; and the present and promised output may run it up in the next generation to forty thousand. Yet they are all welcome, if good; and curiously most of them are read.